

Berlin's Slums Appall Church Relief Agent

Eclipse Those of New York at Its Worst Period, Says Dr. Larsen, Secretary of National Lutheran Council

Food Situation Serious

All Kinds of Supplies Needed in Rumania, Austria and Hungary, He Reports

From a Special Correspondent BERLIN, Nov. 13.—The Rev. Dr. Larsen, general secretary of the National Lutheran Council, has arrived here on a tour of inspection of the work being conducted by the commission sent to Europe by the American Lutherans for the relief of the distressed peoples of the Continent. Here he met Professor J. A. Moorhead, who has been in charge of this work for more than two years. Professor Moorhead until last spring was president of Roanoke College, Virginia, but resigned, as he has been absent in Europe for more than two years.

Dr. Larsen has been traveling in Rumania, Hungary and Austria, and he is now looking over the situation in Germany preparatory to his early return to New York. In regard to Germany he said: "Our commission began work here in July, 1919, and was the first foreign agency to arrive except probably the English Quakers. We work through a German auxiliary commission, which has headquarters at Leipzig. This latter has subcommittees in the various states and provinces, which study the needs of hospitals, deaconesses' homes, slum missions and other institutions and report to Leipzig. The central organization there makes recommendations based upon this information to the European commission, which makes the final decision and allotments of money, food and clothing.

German Conditions Improved "We find through these agencies that food conditions in Germany have improved somewhat within a year, but there is still serious need for assistance. Requests just made from institutions like the one at Leipzig for about 4,000,000 marks. It was thought that this sum would enable those charitable institutions to continue their work during the next four months. This allotment has not yet been made. We have distributed considerable food and clothing in Germany."

Referring to conditions in Berlin, Dr. Larsen said: "Berlin used to boast that it had no slums; but I have just seen things here that eclipse the slums of New York at their worst period. In one small room, not more than 10 by 15 feet, I saw nine Baltic refugees. They were doing all their cooking, washing and sleeping in that one room.

"There is a vast amount of under-nourishment, poverty and disease. There is a skin disease for which the physicians have found no cure; it results from lack of soap and under-clothing. There has been a terrible increase in tuberculosis. The superintendent of one hospital told me that 60 per cent of all diseases here are venereal, or approximately 10 per cent of the population. Before the war it was only 3 per cent. The ministers speak of the frightful decline of morals."

Situation in Poland The most important work of the European commission has been done in Poland. Of course, they found there and the commission's work since then, Dr. Larsen said: "Our agents found that 125,000 men from Lutheran communities alone, not counting women and children, had been taken away from Poland by the Russian forces when they evacuated the country before the advancing Germans. They were sent to Siberia, and one Polish pastor told Dr. Moorhead that their march to Siberia could be traced by the mounds of children's graves left along its path—thirty or forty graves daily. These people have been returning to Poland in small groups for months. They return to absolute destitution; they possess only the rags they wear; their houses are in ruins, their livestock gone. They were without food. Dr. Moorhead found entire families that had been without any food for weeks, except a soup made of nettles.

"The Bolsheviks swept over the same region again this summer and carried out a second destruction. They raped the crops, smashed all farm implements, carried away what little stock was found, pillaged houses and took away the clothing that the Lutheran commission had distributed. They pulled the wedding rings from the fingers of men and women. In some cases children starved to death before food could be brought in.

Potato Only Crop Left "About the only thing left the people was the potato crop which was then growing and could naturally be wholly destroyed. I think that this experience has cured the Poles from any desire to go Bolshevik."

"Our Polish group of workers drew up a plan for making loans to the people through loan societies. With the sum of 20,500,000 Polish marks they organized such societies in the various Polish congregations, and these societies have been recognized by the Polish government. The banks were charging 20 to 25 per cent for money, but our understanding that the interest was to be used for the work of the church and that the capital, when repaid, should be devoted to building churches and schools. In addition to food and money our Polish group distributed 1,000,000 pounds of clothing.

"Next to Poland the greatest need at present is in the new Baltic states. Our representatives tell of going through a region 200 kilometers long and about twenty kilometers broad where everything was destroyed by the Bolsheviks. About forty Lutheran churches were destroyed in the Baltic states. Our commission supplied money, food and clothing there, and the food situation has improved."

Rumanian Policy Oppressive Dr. Larsen spent some time in Transylvania, which has been taken from Rumania and given to Rumania under the peace treaty. While the largest element of the population of Transylvania is Rumanian, there is also a large element of Germans, the descendants of emigrants who settled there hundreds of years ago. They maintain the German language and are Lutherans. In regard to his observations in Transylvania Dr. Larsen said: "The Rumanians are trying to make Catholics of the Lutherans by using worse than Prussian methods. It is a case of an inferior civilization being imposed upon a superior one, yet I was not able to find any religious persecution, whereof much has been reported in the United States. Nevertheless Rumania's policy works out to the equivalent of oppression in its ultimate effects. The government took away the church lands along with the general distribution of large estates.

"The Rumanian language has been put into all schools under compulsion, whereas the people do not understand

it. Thus, instead of winning the people, the Rumanians are creating dissatisfaction.

Refugees Crowd Budapest. "In Hungary food conditions are better than in Austria, but still there is not enough. Clothing is hard to get. The great problem in Budapest is the great number of refugees gathered there from districts severed from Hungary by the treaty.

"The Protestant churches of Hungary have suffered greatly by the reorganization. They have also lost their lands; and their money has been invested in war loans, and that capital is virtually worthless. The people are so oppressed by high prices and general poverty that they can contribute nothing. Our commission made a cash donation of 8,000,000 kronen for food, war orphans, etc., besides liberal distributions of food to charitable institutions."

In Vienna Dr. Larsen found much keener distress than at Budapest. "Living conditions at Vienna," he said, "are appalling, especially for the middle class (a great fashionable street) anything wanted can be bought for money. Meat is scarce. One pastor said he had not been able to buy a pair of shoes for six weeks.

"The American Relief Commission found one of the highest officials of old Austria in his room actually starving, after having sold all his furniture to buy food. Such cases could be mentioned in great numbers."

Slump in Buying By U. S. Affects Latin-Americans

Conditions in Exporting Nations Sound, Says Observer, While They Await Market for Raw Materials

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Despite the falling off of South America's favorable trade balance with the United States, conditions in most Latin-American countries seem to be fundamentally sound, according to Acting Director Charles E. Herring of the Bureau of Foreign and Consular Affairs.

"As the normal market for raw materials on which the economic prosperity of Latin America depends is re-established conditions there will right themselves," Mr. Herring declared, in a survey of trade conditions. "It is to be expected that as lower prices are definitely reached, and consumers in the United States and elsewhere resume their normal purchases, the present slump in the market for South American raw materials will be relieved by heavy purchases in the United States, Canada and other non-European countries."

Anticipation of further price reductions in the United States, Mr. Herring said, is an awkward factor in the situation. Furthermore, he added, the Latin American importer in many cases is obliged to pay a premium of from 20 to 30 per cent on account of his depreciated currency.

"The decreasing purchasing power of a large part of Continental Europe no doubt contributes to the difficulties of Latin-American exporters," Mr. Herring said. "This is particularly true in the case of semi-luxury products like coffee, cocoa and sugar. It seems likely, therefore, that the commercial position of Latin America will be greatly improved as soon as the present wave of depression ceases to prevail in the United States and as it itself is restored until important European countries are in a better position to make their normal purchases abroad."

Prosecutor Doubts Guilt Of Mooney's Companion

San Francisco Attorney Says He Would Not Vote to Convict Billings in Bomb Plot

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 13.—J. B. Brennan, San Francisco attorney, who as Assistant District Attorney prosecuted Warren K. Billings, serving a life sentence with Thomas J. Mooney, for murder in connection with a Preparedness Day bomb explosion in this city, said today that "with my present knowledge of the case I would not vote for his conviction."

Brennan's statement was made after the announcement yesterday that Police Officer Draper Hand, who gathered witnesses for the prosecution, and Mayor James Rolph the prosecution was a frame-up.

"If Hand admitted the witnesses were framed, it was probably a fact," Brennan said. "I took witnesses to the Police Department furnished and tried to make a case against Billings. Their stories told to me after interviews with the police, seemed inconsistent in many points and incredible in others. Hand had full charge of these witnesses."

"We I on the Billings jury, with my present knowledge of the case, I would not vote for his conviction."

Poles Hail Chicago Flyer

CHICAGO, Nov. 13.—Colonel Gedric Fauntleroy, commander of the Polish air forces on the Southern front, returned to Chicago today on a four month's furlough and was met at the station by thousands of Poles, who hailed him as the savior of their native land.

Three years ago Fauntleroy was a garage worker here. He went to France and joined the Lafayette Escadrille. After the armistice he joined the Polish cause and organized the Kosciuszko squadron, and later became chief of aviation on the Southern front.

Colonel Fauntleroy plans to spend his furlough speaking in behalf of the American Relief Administration, of which Herbert Hoover is head.

U. S. Ship Calls for Aid

NORFOLK, Va., Nov. 13.—Radio calls for assistance were received here today from the American steamer Cranford, which reported that she was seventy miles east of Cape Henry with three of her boilers out of commission and that she was being blown south rapidly by a heavy gale. The coast guard cutter Gresham was dispatched to her assistance.

LEXINGTON THEATRE

ONE NIGHT—WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17.

THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE

An unusual historical play in music, pantomime and tableau, done by professional talent.

Story of the Red Cross, presented by the

RED CROSS ROLL CALL

Tickets (Box Office rates) at McBride's and Tyson's, and at ROLL CALL HQRS., 1107 Broadway.

WRANGEL IN FLIGHT; REDS SMASH ARMY

(Continued from page one)

stood to take the view that, pending the stabilization of the situation in the East, it will not take action.

Wrangel's Surrender Demanded

SEBASTOPOL, Nov. 13 (By The Associated Press).—The Bolsheviks are reported to have sent an ultimatum to General Wrangel demanding the unconditional surrender of the White army.

Refugees in Pitiable Plight

The condition of the refugees is pitiable and they are suffering indescribable misery. Considerable looting is going on in the Crimean towns. All the refugees are clamoring to be taken aboard Allied ships, and feverish efforts are being made by the crews of French and British squadrons at Sebastopol to load as many refugees and their effects as possible. The number of refugees awaiting passage exceeds 50,000 men, women and children.

The United States cruiser St. Louis sailed from Constantinople for Sebastopol this morning to embark as many of the refugees as she can carry.

Gravest fears are now felt for General Wrangel's army. With the entrance to the Crimea in the hands of the Bolshevik military observers say it is impossible for General Wrangel to retain his defensive position in the Crimea.

Having broken through all lines of defense, the Bolsheviks are now attacking the Wrangel army in the rear.

The evacuation of Sebastopol probably will be effected by Sunday, according to quarters close to General Wrangel, quoting him to that effect.

Thousands of refugees, panic-stricken, fill the streets and wharves of Sebastopol. Ships of many nations are hurriedly taking refugees aboard and the American Red Cross is loading its supplies. Rear Admiral Newton A. McCully, commander of the American naval forces in Russian waters, will stay at Sebastopol until the last minute with a small guard on the American destroyer Overton. The American colony has been taken aboard the Overton.

PARIS, Nov. 13.—Dispatches received today by the French Foreign Office said that the Allied fleets were preparing to aid in the evacuation of certain districts in the Crimea.

The Bolsheviks have captured 12,000,000 cartridges, 18 cannon, 1 tank, 3 armored trains, 10,000 shells and much transportation material, the dispatches said.

LONDON, Nov. 13.—Sebastopol is being evacuated, and British authorities are requisitioning ships in Constantinople to take refugees from that city, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from the Turkish capital.

Of the eighty thousand persons in Sebastopol seeking transportation, says a Constantinople dispatch to Reuters, it is probable it will be impossible for more than twenty thousand to embark.

Wrangel in Flight; Reds Smash Army

Three New York City Men Are Among Those Who Receive Crosses for Their Services

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Dr. Livingston Farrand, of Washington, D. C., receives the Order of St. Anne, the highest civilian honor of the old Russian government. The others decorated are Frederick P. Keppel, of Washington, D. C., and Robert E. Olds, of St. Paul, Minn., who are given the Order of St. Stanislaw; Ronald Emerson, of Worcester, Mass.; George Herbert Hyden, of Kansas City, Mo., and Jay R. Clewell, of Bellingham, Wash., receive the Order of St. Stanislaw; the second class; Robert T. W. Moss and Nelson Mills, of New York; Frederick W. Bobbitt, of St. Paul, Minn.; Horace Morrison and Charles Clavin Davis, of Boston, and Howard L. Bridges, of Atlanta, Ga., all get the Order of St. Stanislaw of the second class; C. D. Morris, of Olean, N. Y.; Joseph C. Barrett, of New York, and Wilfred H. Day, of Richmond, Va., receive the Order of St. Anne of the third class, and James C. A. Mills the order of St. Stanislaw of the third class.

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The owner of the taxicab, John Taylor, was uninjured, although his car was demolished.

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B. Altman & Co.

MADISON AVENUE-FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Thirty-fourth Street

Thirty-fifth Street

TELEPHONE 7000 MURRAY HILL

Extraordinary Price Revisions

have been made throughout the stocks of the various Departments devoted to the decoration and furnishing of interiors in town and country; as a result of which unprecedented purchasing opportunities are presented in the following:

Decorative Occasional Furniture

the entire collection of which (assembled at vast expense) has been radically re-priced. Included are Chairs and Settees covered in rare needlepoint, brocade, velours de gene and brocatelle; large and small Tables of choice, selected woods; and Cabinet Pieces of satinwood, mahogany and walnut, illustrative of the tastes of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These interesting furnishings are now marked at prices that are from 10% to 50% lower than heretofore.

Genuine Antique Textiles

among which are superb Copes, Dalmatics, Chasubles, Panels and Brocades, woven or embroidered in magnificent color effects, in some instances on rich backgrounds of silver or 22-karat gold. All of these beautiful stuffs (which are in perfect preservation) have been marked at one-third less than the former prices.

Drapery and Upholstery Fabrics

including repps, armures, poplins, plain and figured velvets, period damasks, tapestries, silk brocades, striped and figured mohairs, and an unsurpassed selection of taffetas; all of which have been reduced to prices so low as to be, in some instances, actually less than present-day cost.

The Upholstery Department

makes the following remarkable offerings:

Reversible Velour Portières

(eight feet long, finished), of superior quality and workmanship; featuring many desirable colors and color combinations

exceptionally low-priced at

\$42.50 per pair

Choice Drapery Silks

comprising

30-inch Corean Silk, 36-inch Japanese Silk

30-inch Figured Florentine Silk

(all in the most desirable shades)

at \$1.35 per yard

33-inch Natural Pongee

at \$1.15 per yard

All of the above Sales on the Fourth Floor